

- (b) Claims 8, 17, 27 and 36 are rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada '629 and Yamazaki '652 and further in view of Yamazaki et al. (US 6,445,005).
- (c) Claims 4, 13, 23 and 32 are rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada '629 and Yamazaki '652 and further in view of Choi et al. (US 6,583,577).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, on page 3 of the Office Action, with regard to independent Claims 1, 9, 19, and 28, the Examiner contends that Yamada '629 discloses "an insulating layer (14c, see col. 7, lines 57-66) for sealing the EL element." Applicants respectfully disagree.

As shown in Fig. 4 in Yamada '629, interlayer insulating film 14c is formed on drive transistor 12 and selection transistor 13. See also e.g. cols. 7-8 in Yamazaki '629. EL element 11 is formed covering insulating film 14c. Hence, insulating film 14c does not seal EL element 11, as recited in the independent claims of the present application, but instead is covered by EL element 11.

Accordingly, Yamada '629 (and the other cited references) does not disclose or suggest an insulating layer for sealing the EL element, as recited in independent Claims 1, 9, 19 and 28 of the present application. Therefore, these independent claims and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references.

Furthermore, independent Claims 9 and 28 recite the feature that "the thin film transistor, the pixel electrode, the EL element, the insulating layer, the applying means and the correcting means are formed over a same substrate." The Examiner does not mention this claimed feature in his rejection nor where the cited references allegedly disclose or suggest this feature. Hence, the Examiner has failed to show how the cited references disclose all of the features of the claimed invention, and the rejection of these claims is insufficient and defective.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all of these rejections of the pending claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

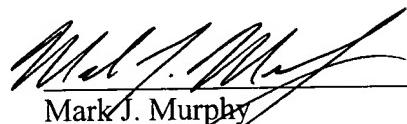
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

Please charge our deposit account 50/1039 for any fee due for this response.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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